

# SIGMA ETCH

## DESCRIPTION

Phosphoric acid-based etch solution for treating new, unweathered galvanized surfaces prior to painting

## PRINCIPAL CHARACTERISTICS

- For pretreatment of new galvanized steel where blasting or abrasion is not possible
- May be overcoated with a wide range of protective coating systems
- May be used to give adhesion of high-temperature coatings to new galvanized steel
- Changes color on application from blue to black to indicate the effectiveness of primary pretreatment
- Meets the requirements of British Rail's 'T-wash' solution
- Not recommended for immersed conditions

## COLOR AND GLOSS LEVEL

- Pale blue solution, which turns gray-black on application to clean galvanized surfaces

## BASIC DATA AT 20°C (68°F)

Data for product	
Number of components	One
Mass density	1.0 kg/l (8.3 lb/US gal)
VOC (Supplied)	UK PG 6/23(92) Appendix 3: max. 335.0 g/l (approx. 2.8 lb/US gal)
Theoretical spreading rate	15.0 m <sup>2</sup> /l for 0 μm ( ft <sup>2</sup> /US gal for 0.0 mils)
Overcoating Interval	Minimum: 2 hours Maximum: 48 hours
Shelf life	At least 12 months when stored cool and dry

Note: See ADDITIONAL DATA – Overcoating intervals

## RECOMMENDED SUBSTRATE CONDITIONS AND TEMPERATURES

### Galvanized steel

- Galvanized surfaces are variable and the preferred method of treatment is to lightly sweep blast followed by degreasing and cleaning
- Remove all rust, dirt, moisture, grease or other contaminants from the surface
- Any traces of soluble zinc salts should be removed by abrading and washing
- Washed with fresh water to remove emulsified residues, dirt and other contaminants
- Surfaces which following application do not uniformly blacken, indicate insufficient primary surface preparation and these should be re-prepared by abrading



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## INSTRUCTIONS FOR USE

- Mix thoroughly before application
- Over-application will produce a dense black powdery layer which is unsuitable for the application of top coats
- Such areas will require either abrading or washing to remove powdery deposits otherwise the adhesion of topcoats will be adversely affected

### Brush/roller

- Brush recommended, apply at 15.0 m<sup>2</sup>/l (611 ft<sup>2</sup>/US gal), roller is suitable

### Recommended thinner

No extra thinner is necessary

Note: If however application results in a black powdery surface then SIGMA ETCH can be diluted with tap water

### Cleaning solvent

Tap water

## ADDITIONAL DATA

Overcoating interval					
Overcoating with...	Interval	10°C (50°F)	20°C (68°F)	30°C (86°F)	40°C (104°F)
recommended topcoats	Minimum	2 hours	2 hours	1 hour	30 minutes
	Maximum	48 hours	48 hours	48 hours	48 hours

## SAFETY PRECAUTIONS

- This product contains phosphoric acid
- Before commencing application refer to Material Safety Data Sheet
- See INFORMATION SHEETS 1430, 1431
- Although this is a waterborne paint, care should be taken to avoid inhalation of spray mist, as well as contact between the wet paint and exposed skin or eyes

## WORLDWIDE AVAILABILITY

It is always the aim of PPG Protective and Marine Coatings to supply the same product on a worldwide basis. However, slight modification of the product is sometimes necessary to comply with local or national rules/circumstances. Under these circumstances an alternative product data sheet is used.

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## REFERENCES

• EXPLANATION TO PRODUCT DATA SHEETS	INFORMATION SHEET	1411
• SAFETY INDICATIONS	INFORMATION SHEET	1430
• SAFETY IN CONFINED SPACES AND HEALTH SAFETY, EXPLOSION HAZARD – TOXIC HAZARD	INFORMATION SHEET	1431
• SAFE WORKING IN CONFINED SPACES	INFORMATION SHEET	1433
• DIRECTIVES FOR VENTILATION PRACTICE	INFORMATION SHEET	1434

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